SITE FILE COPY

Form 10-300 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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6.

DENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Missouri State Historical Survey

(state)

1968

Missouri State Park Board

P.O. Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Code: 29

	DESCRIPTION							
					(Check One	·)		
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dent County Courthouse in Salem, Missouri is a fine expression of the more classically inspired Victorian Mansard mode. Constructed of brick on a hewn limestone foundation, it has a restrained dignity, balance, and simple "Italian" wall surface as well as having the high and narrow windows, lofty cornice, mansard roof and dormers, and cast iron cresting typical of the "French" Victorian, or Second Empire Style.

Exterior

The courthouse is rectangular in plan, with overall dimensions of $41'4" \times 81'$. The original building, constructed in 1870 is $41'4" \times 57'$, and an addition constructed in 1897 is $41'4" \times 24'1"$.

The building faces west. It is located at the center of the courthouse square bounded by Fifth Street on the North, Iron Street on the East, Fourth Street on the South and Main Street on the West.

In the center of the main facade on the west is the 3 1/2-story entrance tower projecting slightly from the main portion of the 2 1/2-story building. Its ground floor forms a small open porch with two arches for the entrance, and is separated from the upper floors by a wooden cornice. The second story has a pair of long, narrow, double-hung windows with round arches, while the third floor has a slightly shorter pair of windows with segmental arches. The tower is crowned by a high boxed cornice with brackets, a mansard roof with gable dormers, and ornate cast iron cresting.

A stone set between the second and third floors of the tower is inscribed: "1870 A. E. Dye."

The main block extends one bay wide to either side of the tower. The first floor window openings have round arches while the second story windows have segmental arches. The mansard roof has Victorian hooded dormers as opposed to the gable dormers of the tower.

This design is carried along the north and south sides of the main block. The center of both the north and south facades is interupted by a slightly projecting gable which introduces a break in the bracketed cornice. North and south sides have two bays to either side of the central gables on both first and second stories.

The projecting sections of wall under the north and south gables have three bays with the central bay split into two tiers of narrow windows. A small circular vent is centered in the pediment.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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7. #1

DENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

All the first story windows, in the main block, are two-over-two light, double-hung sash windows with round arches. Those at the second story are four-over-four light, double-hung with segmental arches.

A small, brick, two-story addition with flat roof is attached to the east end of the building. The north and south sides of the addition have two windows per floor set in recessed panels. The first story windows are similar to those of the main building, while the second story openings are shorter with flat arches. The first floor of the east end of the addition has a central, hooded door flanked by a single round arched window to each side. The second story has three evenly spaced, flat arched windows.

An outside stairway to the basement occurs at the south end of the building's east side.

Interior

The original 1870 building has no basement. The basement under the 1897 (east) addition serves as the county jail.

There is a central hall on the first floor with offices to either side. A stairwell in the southwest corner of the building leads to the second and third floors. The second floor has two small offices in the front with the circuit courtroom behind. The third floor, within the mansard, has two similar front offices, a meeting hall, and a small anteroom. East of the meeting hall is a section of unfinished attic space with the roof framing structure exposed.

The interior appears rather plain, although it is moderately ornamented in the paneled doors and reveals, wood wainscoting, and, in the courtroom on the second floor, by a stamped metal ceiling and cornice.

Ceiling heights are 11'8" on the first story, 13'9" on the second and 8 and 10 feet in the attic.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7. #2

DENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Condition

The Dent County Courthouse survives with a high degree of integrity. Except for the 1897 east addition and minor, surface refurbishment on the interior, the courthouse is essentially unchanged. Neither the original board fence nor the 1897 iron fence surrounding the courthouse yard survive.

Setting

The courthouse square is surrounded by store buildings serving commercial interests. Fourth street, passing by the south side of the courthouse appears to be the primary business street of Salem, with a commercial district extending along Fourth Street, approximately 1 block east and 3 blocks west of the courthouse square.

The courthouse is the most prominent building in Salem and the surrounding county.

GNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as .	Appropriate)		•
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	2 19th Century	•
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1870		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Approp	riate)	
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Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

The Dent County Courthouse is the earliest surviving mansard Victorian county courthouse in Missouri, and it has a higher degree of original integrity than other Missouri County courthouses in this group dating from the 1870's. The courthouse is the most prominent example of building art in Dent County, Missouri.

The present courthouse is the third structure on the courthouse square in Salem. The first was a two-story brick building erected in 1853. It served as the courthouse until 1861 when the county court was suspended, and the structure was turned over to the Union army to serve as a federal headquarters. It existed for this purpose until 1864 when two Dent citizens, sympathetic to the Confederacy, burned it to the ground. 1

In 1866 a small one-story plank courthouse was constructed on the square to serve temporarily the county's needs. On March 30, 1870 plans for the present, permanent courthouse were accepted. Randolph Brothers of St. Louis presented the plans, and A. E. Dye won the building contract with the lowest bid, \$14,950.00.2

The courthouse was finished in 1871, and has undergone little change since that time. An addition was constructed to the east in 1897, and a program of minor repairs was conducted in 1933-34.3

Architects

The Randolph Brothers of St. Louis are listed in Edwards' St. Louis Directory, 1870-71, as M. and S.M. Randolph, architects, rooms 3 and 5, Temple Building, at the northwest corner of Walnut and 5th. In 1872 the listing is for Malin Randolph only, a listing again carried in 1873 in Gould's St. Louis Directory. 4 After that date the listings are discontinued. The standard architectural references yield no further information on these architects. exemplify a number of obscure midwestern workers in the building art whose story awaits the illuminating effect of further research and historical investigation.

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8. #1

DENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

In reading St. Louis newspapers and magazines published during the 1870's, one finds advertised many new buildings of design similar to the Dent County Courthouse.

Comparison with other Missouri Courthouses

Missouri currently has eight remaining county courthouses more or less related to the Mansard Victorian type, of this group the Dent County Courthouse is the earliest. In chronological order according to date of construction the courthouses are: Dent County, 1870; McDonald County, 1870-71; Lewis County, 1875; Atchison County, 1882; Gentry County, 1884; Howard County, 1887; Morgan County, 1890; and Ripley County, 1899.

Of this group of extant, Missouri, mansard county courthouses, the Lewis County Courthouse is the closest to the Dent County Courthouse in design, having a similar front tower and a rectangular plan with a three bay front facade. The Lewis County Courthouse has been refurbished and stripped of many of the period ornamental features which are intact at the Dent County Courthouse.

The courthouses at Atchison, Gentry, Howard, Morgan, and Ripley counties are considerably larger structures, generally square in plan, and dating from later in the nineteenth century.

The McDonald County Courthouse is almost residential in character, and bears little design relationship to any of the others in the mansard group. 5

Attic Meeting Room

The attic meeting room was constructed by the Salem Lodge #225 of A.F. and A.M. which asked for a 99 year lease on the attic for use as a meeting room, as recorded in the County Court Record Book C, February 8, 1871. The County Court determined that the installation of this finished room into the attic space would strengthen the building, and therefore approved the lodge's request.

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8. #2

DENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Footnotes

- 1. History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps and Dent Counties, Missouri. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 575. And County Court Record Book C, Dent County, Missouri, p. 2, May 9, 1866.
- County Court Record Book C. Dent County, Missouri, p. 331, March 30, 1870.
- 3. William P. Elmer, Elmer's History of Dent County Salem, Missouri: Salem Publishing Company, 1950-1956, n.p. (Elmer was a participant in the jail project.) and Salem Monitor, October 22, 1896. Notice of petition to issue bonds for new county jail in the amount of \$6,000.
- 4. Edwards' Annual Directory of the City of St. Louis, 1870, p. 711; 1871, p. 718; 1872, p. 910.

Gould's St. Louis City Directory, 1873, p. 950.

- 5. Photographs of Missouri's mansard Victorian courthouses are on file at the State Historical Survey and Planning Office, Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101, and are available for examination upon request.
- 6. County Court Record Book C., Dent County, Missouri, p. 386, February 8, 1871.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1. Atlas of Dent County, Missouri. Salem, Missouri: The Dent County Post, (1917 or 1918?)
- 2. The County Court Record Book C, Dent County, Missouri, p. 331, March 30, 1870; and p. 2, May 9, 1966.
- 3. Elmer, William P. Reprints of William P. Elmer's History of Dent County Which Appeared in the Salem News, August 10, 1950 to May 17, 1956. Salem, Missouri: Salem Publishing Company, n.d.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Con	tinue	ation	Sheet)

TATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Dent	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9.

DENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

- 4. Edwards' Annual Directory of City of St. Louis. St. Louis: Southern Publishing Co., 1870, 1871, 1872.
- 5. Gould's St. Louis City Directory. St. Louis: David B. Gould & Co., 1873.
- 6. History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps, and Dent Counties, Missouri. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 575.

Other Sources

- 1. Humphreys, John R. "The Timeless Towns," Vogue Magazine, February, 1960, pp. 137 ff.
- 2. The State Historical Society of Missouri. County Photograph files, ref. Dent County. Old postal card views of courthouse (postmarked August, 1910) and Fourth Street, Salem, Missouri. n.d.
- 3. Vickery, Margaret. "Dent Courthouse 100 Years Old," The Salem News, March 9, 1970, p. 1.

	Form 10-301 (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR MISSOU	ri
	•	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Dent	·
		PROPERTY MAP FORM FOR NPS L	JSE ONLY
n		(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)	R DATE
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	AND/OR HIS	STORIC:	
- [2. LOCATION		
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Ł		Salem	
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ا ح	SOURCE:	KENCE	
_		U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle "Salem"	
Ц	SCALE:	1:62,500	
ᆸᇎ	DATE:	1941	·
<u> </u>	4. REQUIREME	ENTS	
^ <u>~</u>	TO BE INCL	LUDED ON ALL MAPS	-
•	1. Pro	perty broundaries where required.	
	2. Nort	th arrow.	
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Form 10-301
(July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

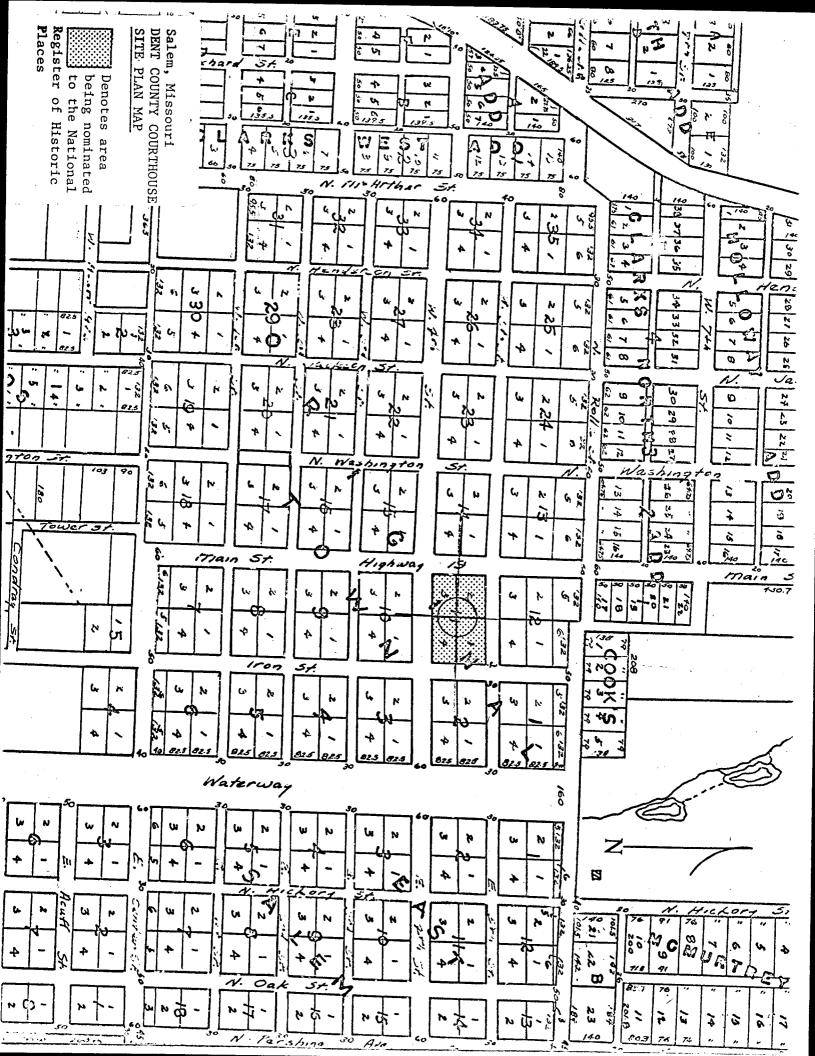
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

3. Latitude and longitude reference.

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	-
Dent	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

COMMON:	Dent County Court	thouse		
AND/OR HISTORIC:			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
	Main and Fourth	streets	3	
CITY OR TOWN:				
	Salem			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:	co
	Missouri 65560	29	Dent	
MAP REFERENCE				
SOURCE:	City of Salem, De	ent Coi	inty. Missouri	
	-		ddle, Rolla, Missouri	
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DATE:	April 1959			
REQUIREMENTS	y			



· ·	PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM COUNTY DO FOR	ent R NPS USE ONLY NUMBER DATE
2 0 -	COMMON: Dent County Courthouse AND/OR HISTORIC:	
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ST	Salem STATE: Missouri 65560 29 Dent B. PHOTO REFERENCE	065
E E N	PHOTO CREDIT: M.P. Holmes, Missouri State Park Board DATE OF PHOTO: November 3, 1971 NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176 1204 Jefferson Building Jefferson City, Missouri	ıri 65101
S	describe view. DIRECTION. ETC. Interior view of the courtroom on the floor of the Dent County Courthouse. View from looking northeast. Original materials and char largely extant in the building as seen in the seciling and cornice, the judge's bench and the	n southwest, racter are stamped metal

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	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	STATE	
	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Missouri	
NA	IONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY	
		Dent	
1	ROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY	
(Type	all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)	ENTRY NUMBER C	DATE
1. NAME			130.50
COMMON:	Dent County Courthouse		
AND/OR HISTOR	C:		
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NO	MBER:		
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	Salem		
STATE:	CODE COUNTY:	_	ODE
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	1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson		1
4. IDENTIFICATION	N Company of the Comp		
DESCRIBE VIE	W, DIRECTION, ETC.		
, ,	From southeast, looking northwest. (left), and east (rear) wall (right		
	Courthouse, showing the two-story least end of the building.	1897 addition at the	

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STATE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Missouri COUNTY . NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Dent PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph) S z 1. NAME 0 COMMON: Dent County Courthouse AND/OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: Main and Fourth streets CITY OR TOWN: \simeq Salem STATE: COUNTY: CODE CODE 65560 Missouri 065 29 Dent 3. PHOTO REFERENCE PHOTO CREDIT: M. P. Holmes, Missouri State Park Board DATE OF PHOTO: April 19, 1969 ш NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. West facade of the Dent County Courthouse. View from the west facing east.

	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	STATE Missouri	
. 1	ATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES		
	PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM	Dent FOR NPS USE ON	
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DENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

COUNTY:

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LOCATION:

OWNER: ADDRESS:

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

DATE SENT TO JEFF. CITY:

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

DATE AWARDED CERTIFICATE (AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

Dent

Main and 4th streets, Salem, Mo. 65560

Dent County Main and 4th streets, Salem, Mo. 65560

11-12-71

12-21-71

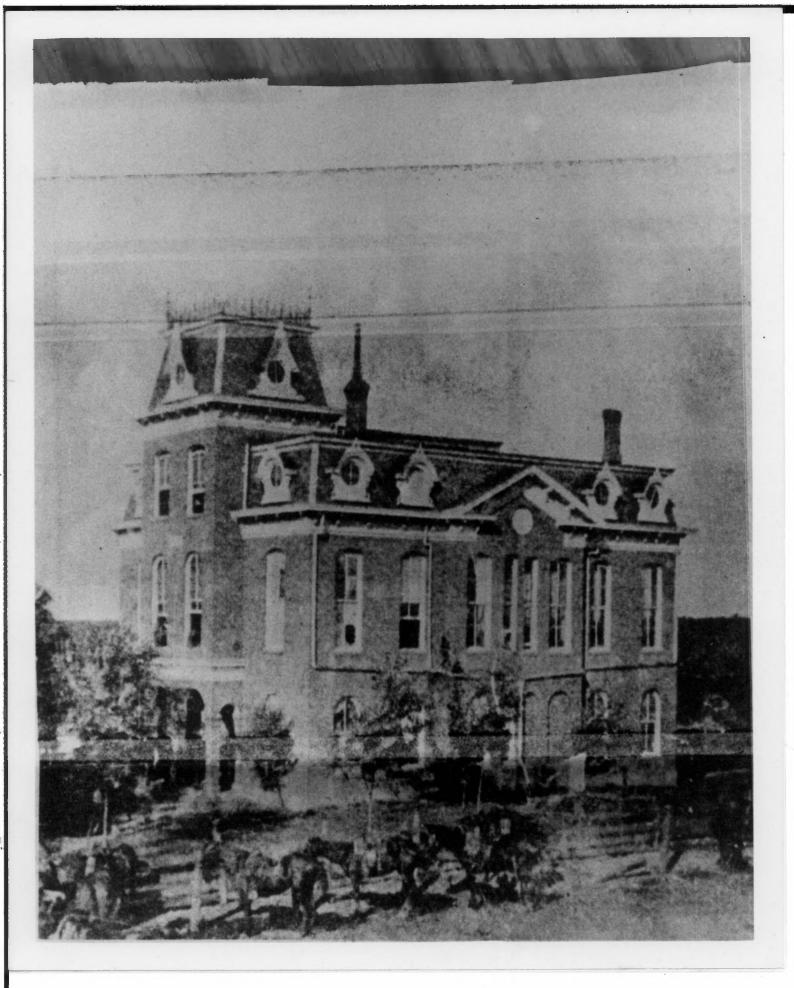
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Dent County Cthse. copy neg from The Salem News

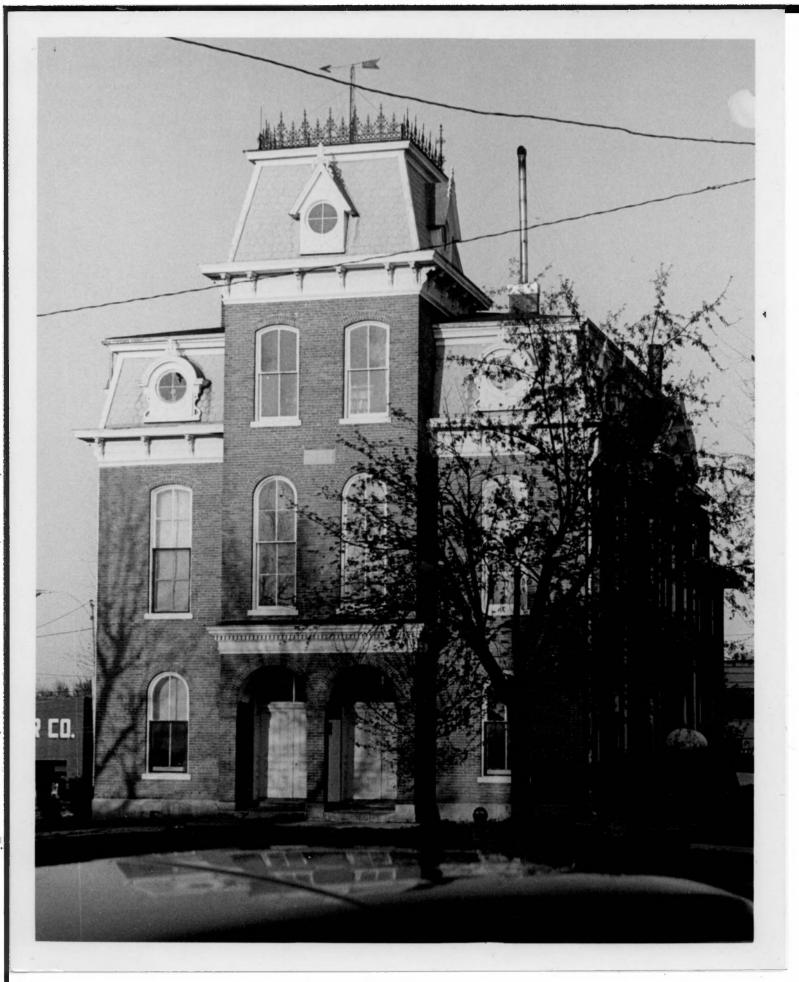
March 9, 1870. old view of cthse. prior to 1896 rear add. wooden fence in place.



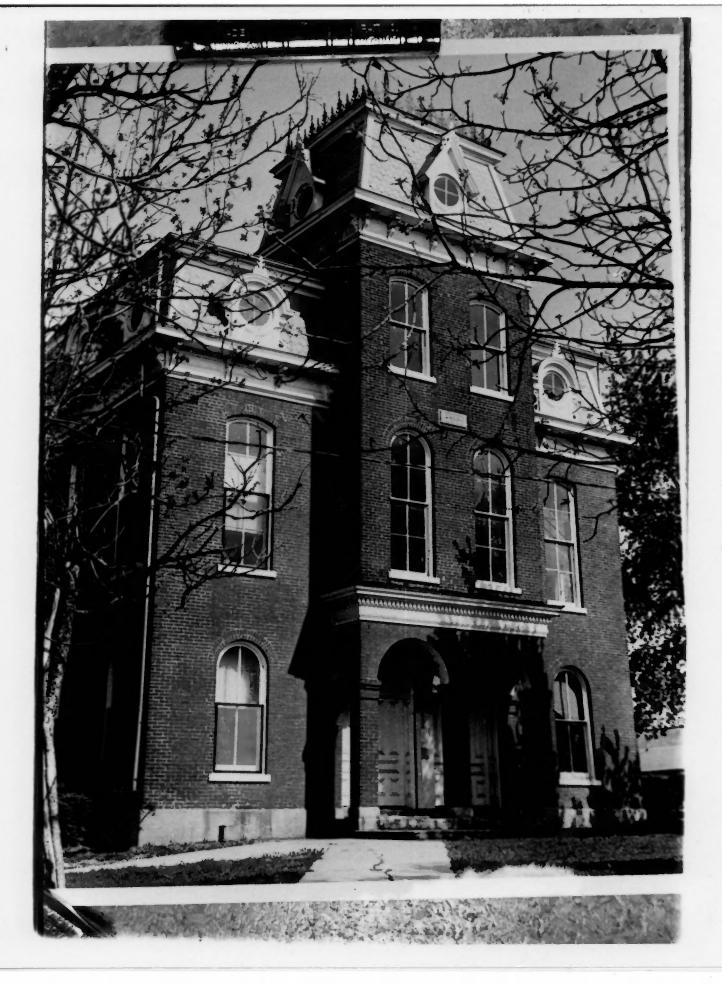
Hame of Site: Leak Co. Counthouse Site Mamber Photographer: MP Wolune Date of Photo: 9 again 1969 View of Photo: 35 mm



Name of Site: <u>Alent County Court</u>
Site Number
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Date of Photo: <u>19 April 19</u>69
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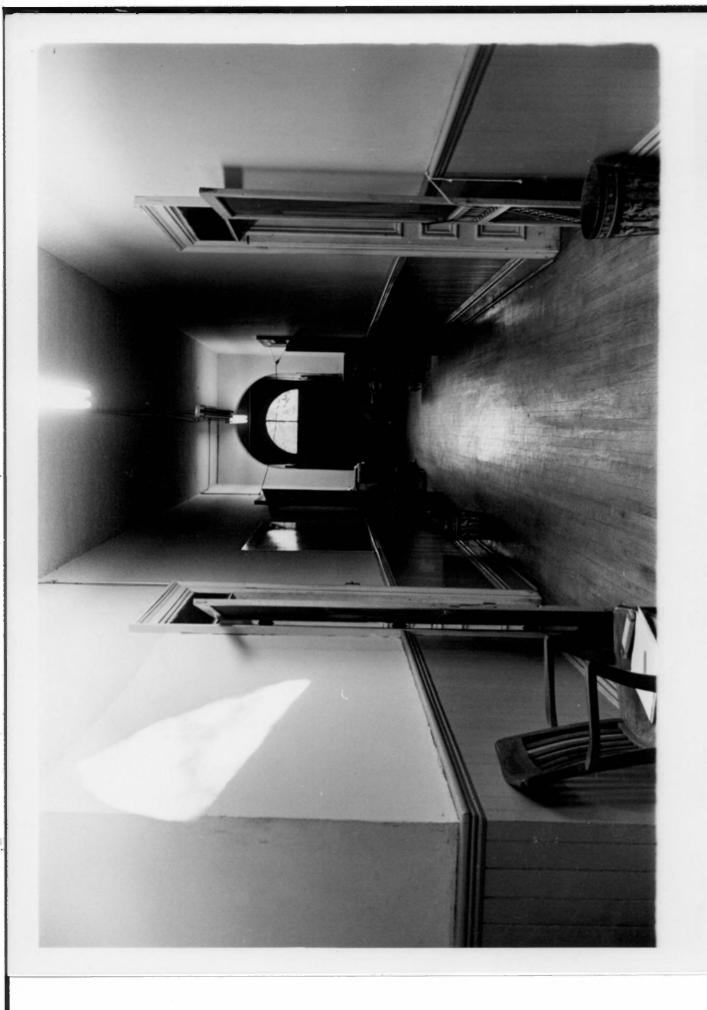
Lent Caunty Caurtnause



Dent County Courthouse - Jalem Mv. MPH -11/3/71 the stairs at southwest corner of 1st flour from north,



Dent County Courthouse - Salem me.
mps. "/3/7"
cossider en 1st floor
sprom weet.



pent lounty loundrouse Laum m. mpx - 1/3/71



interior view of the courtroom on and oflows from SW to NA Dent Courthouse - Statem mo. most 1/2/11



Dent launte Courthonne - Salem m.
mps. 1,13/71
interior wien of the courtroom on
3nd yloor from oll to nt



Dong Co Court house

Ree 9.30.70 Dent Co Salem



Aame of Site: Dent. Co. Courthouse

Site Number
Photographer:

AP Holmes
Date of Photo:

19 April 1969

View of Photo:

N / 7 SE

Neg. Size

3.5 m = 1871



